
SENATE RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE USE OF THE TERM "DEAF-BLIND" BY THE STATE OF
HAWAII AND THE COUNTIES.

1 WHEREAS, terminology and labeling of a particular community
2 based on a common characteristic or interest can be quite
3 specific and significant to the community's members; and
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5 WHEREAS, many individuals in Hawai'i and nationally have
6 used the term "deaf-blind", written in lowercase with a hyphen
7 between the words deaf and blind, to describe individuals who
8 are deaf and blind; and
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10 WHEREAS, long-standing institutions such as the Helen
11 Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults and the
12 National Center on Deaf-Blindness have and continue to use the
13 term "deaf-blind", written in lowercase with a hyphen between
14 the words deaf and blind, to describe the deaf and blind
15 community; and
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17 WHEREAS, federal laws that define and refer to individuals
18 who are deaf and blind use the term "deaf-blind" written in
19 lowercase with a hyphen between the words deaf and blind; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Administrative Rules, in section 11-
22 218-3, define "person who is deaf-blind" as "any person who,
23 with or without the assistance of hearing or visual aids, has
24 both auditory and visual disabilities that interfere with
25 communication", utilizing the term "deaf-blind" written in
26 lowercase with a hyphen between the words deaf and blind; and
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28 WHEREAS, Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, session
29 established a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of
30 hearing, and deaf-blind individuals in Hawai'i, with the term
31 "deaf-blind" written in lowercase with a hyphen between the
32 words deaf and blind; and
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1 WHEREAS, some individuals and organizations have sought to
2 use the term "DeafBlind" with no hyphen between the words deaf
3 and blind and the first letter of each word capitalized; now,
4 therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
7 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the State,
8 counties, and all entities that contract with the State or a
9 county utilize the term "deaf-blind" with the term "deaf-blind"
10 written in lowercase with a hyphen between the words deaf and
11 blind; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of
15 Human Services, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor
16 of the County of Maui, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of
17 the County of Kauai, Executive Director of the Disability and
18 Communication Access Board, and Executive Director of the Hawai'i
19 Civil Rights Commission.

